

2 electroforming an aperture plate made of palladium or a palladium alloy,
3 the aperture plate having a front surface and a rear surface, the palladium or palladium
4 alloy aperture plate being electroformed to form a plurality of tapered apertures extending
5 from the rear surface to the front surface;

6 providing a fluid at the rear surface of the aperture plate; and
7 vibrating the aperture plate to eject the fluid through the plurality of
8 tapered apertures.

1 41. The method of claim 40, wherein:
2 the electroforming step is carried out with the aperture plate being
3 palladium cobalt.

1 43. The method of claim 40, wherein:
2 the electroforming step is carried out with the aperture plate being
3 palladium nickel.

1 43. The method of claim 40, wherein:
2 the electroforming step is carried out with the aperture plate being about
3 80% palladium and about 20% nickel.

— REMARKS

Claims 40-43 are pending in this application. Claims 40-43 were rejected
as being unpatentable over Ivri or Gueret in view of Abys.

DISCUSSION

Independent claim 40 is allowable over Ivri, Gueret and Abys (“cited
references”) since the cited references do not disclose or suggest “electroforming an
aperture plate made of palladium or a palladium alloy ...the palladium or palladium alloy
aperture plate being electroformed to form a plurality of tapered apertures.” Applicants
respectfully submit that Abys provides no suggestion or motivation for electroforming
palladium, let alone an aperture plate having tapered apertures, and, in fact, arguably
teaches away from the claimed method.